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ABSTRACT

The United States has a higher child mortality rate than most other industrialized countries, but most childhood injuries, although called "accidents," are the result of predictable and preventable behavior. This book demonstrates how teachers, parents, and caregivers can provide and maintain safe environments while teaching children how to avoid injuries, and to control the extent of trauma when an injury does occur. Chapter 1 discusses child behaviors (such as recklessness and risk taking) that may affect health and safety, and discusses safety responsibilities of home, school, and the community. Chapter 2 discusses creating a safe school environment, including building self-esteem, teaching safe behavior, developing specific safety strategies, and providing discipline for unsafe behaviors. Chapter 3 provides rules for school bus safety, pedestrian safety, safety in cars, and bicycle safety; the chapter concludes with some suggested class projects. Chapter 4 describes ways to keep young children from being injured or violated by other older children or adults through abduction, physical and sexual abuse, and violence from guns or weapons. Chapter 5 offers specific strategies to prevent or minimize injuries from poisons, fire, and water. Chapter 6 discusses first aid and emergency procedures for child injuries. Eight references and sources for additional resource materials are included. (TM)

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